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The Star-Spangled Banner

O! say, can ye see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hail'd by the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose bright stars & broad stripes, through the clouds of the fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare - the bomb bursting in air
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there
O! say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave?

On that shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream.
'Tis the Star-Spangled Banner - O! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave

And where is that host that so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war & the battle's confusion
A home & a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footstep's pollution
No refuge could save the hireling & slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave.

O! thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes & the war's desolation
Blest with victory & peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made & preserved us a nation
Then conquer we must - when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto - In God is our trust
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave

Washington.
Oct 21 — 40

T Key

AUTOGRAPH COPIES

OF THE

"STAR-SPANGLED BANNER,"

ADDITIONAL VERSES, &c.

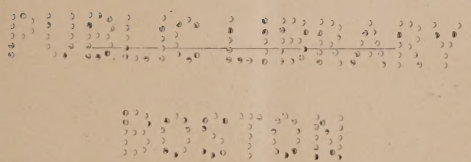
B.H.

* * 2192.10

A PAPER PREPARED FOR
THE NEW-ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER
FOR JANUARY, 1877,

BY

GEO. HENRY PREBLE, U. S. N.



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THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER.

Autograph Copies, Additional Verses, &c.

IN my paper on the Star-Spangled Banner, published in the Register for January, 1874, which was reprinted under the title of "Three Historic Flags," I say a fac-simile of a MS. of the song, published in "Autograph Leaves of our Country's Authors," in 1864, was from a copy in the possession of the author's daughter, Mrs. Howard, of Baltimore. Subsequently to that publication, under date of April 25, 1874, Mrs. Howard wrote me:

"I do not think I ever had an autograph of the Star-Spangled Banner. My father gave his children, from the time they could speak, the habit of committing poetry to memory, and in that way only has the song been preserved to me. Except in one or two words, Mr. Keim's version, as you have it, is the one I have ever remembered."

Henry May Keim, Esq., of Reading, Pa., after reading my paper, under date of Jan. 8, 1874, wrote me:

"You say a fac-simile of Mrs. Howard's copy of the Star-Spangled Banner was made for the Baltimore Sanitary Fair in 1864. A fac-simile of *my* copy was made for the benefit of the same fair in 1864, and I was under the impression it was the only one. I have searched diligently for the correspondence I had with my cousin Brantz Mayer, who, with Mr. Kennedy, took a great interest in the fair, relative to the matter, but cannot find it."

Thus we are certain there are in existence at least three autograph copies of the song, viz.: 1st, the copy presented to James Mahar, and dated June 7, 1842, printed in the National Intelligencer and in my "History of our Flag;" 2d, the copy presented and addressed to Gen. Geo. Keim in 1842, now in the possession of his son, and which was printed in the Register for January, 1874; and 3d, the copy dated Oct. 21, 1840, a fac-simile of which illustrates this paper. It was first published in fac-simile in the American Historicaland Literary Curiosities (plate lv.) by John Jay Smith, who

stated the original was in the possession of Louis J. Cist. This copy differs from Mr. Keim's only in the first line of the last stanza, which reads, "*And where is that host*," instead of "Where are the foes," as in the later autographs.

A San Francisco paper says that the only original likeness of Francis Scott Key is in the possession of his sister, Mrs. Turner, a resident of that city, and that a life-sized bust has been made from it in plaster, which is said to be a very successful piece of work. I have a letter from Mrs. Turner's daughter, in which she says her mother believes her portrait to be the *only* likeness of her father from life extant. I have, however, seen a youthful portrait of him in Col. Etting's National Museum in Independence Hall, said to be an original.

I learn from a recent newspaper that Samuel Sands, the printer boy who first put the song in type for the columns of the Baltimore American, is still living in a green old age in that city.

A recent letter addressed by Mrs. Caroline Purdy, of Baltimore, to Mrs. Appleton, daughter of Col. Armistead, furnishes us with the names of the makers of the flag which inspired Key's song. Mrs. Purdy says:

"I take the liberty of sending you a few particulars about the flag [Fort McHenry]. It was made by my mother, Mrs. Mary Pickersgill, *and I assisted her*. My grandmother, Rebecca Young, made the first flag of the Revolution under Gen. Washington's directions, and for this reason my mother was selected by Commodore Barney and General Striker (family connections) to make this star-spangled banner, which she did, being an exceedingly patriotic woman. The flag being so very large, my mother was obliged to obtain permission from the proprietor of 'Claggett's Brewery,' which was in our neighborhood, to spread it out in their malt-house, and I remember seeing my mother down on the floor placing the stars. After the completion of the flag, she superintended the topping [i. e. heading] of it, having it fastened in the most secure manner, to prevent its being torn away by balls. The wisdom of her precaution was shown during the engagement, many shots piercing it, but it still remained firm to the staff. Your father, Col. Armistead, declared that no one but the maker of the flag should mend it, and requested that the rents should be bound around. The flag I think contained four hundred yards of bunting, and my mother worked many nights until 12 o'clock to complete it in a given time. I would recall myself to your recollection as a manager of the Aged Woman's Home, when you were here. I am widowed and childless, and now find myself in my seventy-sixth year in feeble health."

The flag of Fort McHenry was exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition in the Naval Department of the U. S. Government Building.

The song having been inspired by a special incident, is not suited to all times and occasions as a national song should be, and to supply its deficiencies additional stanzas have from time to time been written. Notably among these is the following stanza written by

Oliver Wendell Holmes, at the request of a lady during our civil war, there being no verse alluding to treasonable attempts against the flag.

"When our land is illumined with liberty's smile,
If a foe from within strikes a blow at her glory,
Down, down with the traitor that dares to defile
The flag of her stars, and the page of her story!
By the millions unchain'd
Who our birthright have gained,
We will keep her bright blazon forever unstained;
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
While the land of the free is the home of the brave.

Eminently appropriate to the present Centennial times and the spirit with which Great Britain has entered into them, are the following stanzas, written fifty years ago, but which are known to few of the present time.

"But hush'd be that strain! They our Foes are no longer;
Lo, Britain the right hand of Friendship extends,
And Albion's fair Isle we behold with affection,
The land of our Fathers—the land of our Friends!

Long, long may ye flourish, Columbia and Britain,
In amity still may your children be found,
And the Star-Spangled Banner and Red Cross together
Wave free and triumphant the wide world around!"

Benjamin Rush, Esq., for whom they were written, and from whom I obtained them, writes me:

"The circumstances under which these additional stanzas to the Star-Spangled Banner first came to my hand were briefly adverted to in the Preface to my edition of my fathers's book, entitled, 'Recollections of the English and French Courts,' published in London in 1871, where I then was. The stanzas were also published; but that need not interfere in the least with your desire to insert them in the second edition of your History of the Flag, wherein I should say they would appropriately come in. The name of the author by whom they were composed, was George Spowers, Esq., and this has never been published. I think it eminently due to him now that his name should be given to the public, considering not only the beauty but the admirable sentiments of the stanzas. He had seen in my hands a manuscript copy of the original song, and asked me to lend it to him, which I did. A day or two afterwards he returned it to me with these stanzas. I was quite a boy at the time, at school with my two brothers, at Hampstead, near London, while my father was residing in London as minister of the United States. It must have been about the year 1824."

B. P. L. Bindery
JUN 21 1904